

in a great problem confronting the country in speeches made in the House by Representatives Cox, Indiana, and Howard, Virginia. Mr. Howard said it was that great problem of all Mr. Cox said that there never would be time when men, or munitions for the American army and the armies of the world, or government would be adequate and that the government should turn its attention to the food situation to meet the emergency with Germany. Mr. Howard said that the emergency fund to be put into the President's hands should be used to purchase seed for farmers who have neither seed nor money for that purpose. He advocated government action to require railroads to rush cars that contained seed and

Mr. Howard aroused several members, notably Representative Moore of Pennsylvania, by his declaration that food producers should be exempt from military service. Mr. Moore declared such favoritism in behalf of the farmers would be ruinous.

"Nevertheless," Mr. Howard said, "the whole question of the conduct of this war rests on getting enough food."

## President Using Influence for Selective Draft Plan of Creating Armed Force

President Wilson has begun a series of conferences with members of the House of Representatives on the administration army plans, based on the selective draft system, against which opposition is de-

veloping in Congress. This afternoon the President had a talk with Representative Anthony of Kansas, a republican, who is leading the republican opposition in the House, following a conference the President had with Representative Dent, chairman of the House military committee, yesterday afternoon.

Administration leaders believe that the opposition to the administration army plan will not prove serious. The administration feels that there is considerable opposition, but in some quarters it is believed that much of the opposition is part of the remaining pacifist element in Congress which was opposed to the entrance of the United States in the war. In any case, administration leaders are convinced that the President will stand firmly for the selective draft plan.

**WAR WITH AUSTRIA  
PRACTICALLY SURE;  
NOT FORCED BY U. S.**

had been shown Count Tarnowski since his arrival; and that officials of the department had received him informally and frankly discussed with him on several occasions the question of his reception.

"Ambassador Penfield was instructed to say to the minister of foreign affairs that this government was aware of the existing situation, and that a way might be found to eliminate the difficulties, but that we should like to receive any suggestions which the

minister of foreign affairs might have concerning the matter if the Austro-Hungarian government considered the situation impossible of continuance. "Ambassador Penfield's reply is dated March 22. In it he informs the department that he has endeavored to make the minister of foreign affairs understand the difficulties of the situation in the Balkans. The minister re-

Washington, which the embassy admitted. At the same time the minister said that the Austro-Hungarian government was confronted by increasing difficulties. The minister of foreign affairs expressed the hope that his last note, transmitted by the embassy to the department on March 2, might make it possible for his government to receive Count Tarnowski.

On March 28 the departing Ambassador Penfield that it desired to consult with him on various matters in connection with the present situation, and he was instructed to re-situate in Washington, intrusting in his absence the affairs of the embassy to Mr. Grew, in the capacity of charge d'affaires ad interim. Mr Penfield was further instructed to say to the Austro-Hungarian minister that the American government was not in a position to

Hungarian minister or foreign affairs that, in view of the express acceptance and avowal by the government of Austria-Hungary of a policy which has led to the breach of relations with Germany, the President is unable, to its sincere regret, to receive Count Tarnowski as ambassador.

"Mr. Penfield was asked again to express to the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs this government's deep regret that the government of Austria-Hungary should have felt itself obliged to join Germany in her submarine policy, thus interrupting rela-

tions which we had hoped might remain friendly in form as well as in fact, adding that we appreciated that the adherence was merely verbal and not physical co-operation; and to say that the President in not receiving Count Tarnowski was acting without feeling against Austria and merely on principle. Mr. Penfield was also directed to offer the facilities of his em-

bassy in transmitting instructions from the Austro-Hungarian government to Count Tarnowski, and that if it was desired that Count Tarnowski should return to Vienna this government would make all necessary arrangements regarding safe conduct.

"On April 1 Ambassador Penfield replied to this instruction, informing the department that the minister of foreign

The Austrian charge d'affaires called at the department Monday morning, April 9, at 11 o'clock, and stated that he had received instructions to the effect that his government had severed

## Fourteen Austrian Ships Seized by U. S. Government After Diplomatic Break

Fourteen Austrian merchant vessels in American ports were taken over by the government, coincident with the announcement that Austria had broken diplomatic relations.

Telegrams to the collectors of customs at the ports concerned were sent personally by Secretary McAdoo late

Sunday night, instructing that the crews aboard the vessels be removed and that customs guards be placed in their stead. The status of the removed crews will be determined by immigration authorities of the Department of Labor.

**Secretary McAdoo's Statement.**

In a formal announcement of the government's action, Secretary McAdoo made it clear that the government had not confiscated the vessels, but had acted for the purpose of protecting them "from further injury."

The vessels thus taken into the government's keeping were all at Atlantic or Gulf

ports, as follows: At New York, the Dora, Himalala, Ida and Martha Washington; at Boston, the Erny; at Philadelphia, the Franconia; at Newport News, the Budapest; at Pensacola, the Lucia; at Tampa, the Borneo; at New Orleans, the Anna, Clara and Teresa, and at Galveston, the Campana and Morawitz.

The tonnage of the fourteen vessels totals approximately 67,000. The largest of the fleet is the Martha Washington, at New York, of 8,312 tons, and passenger accommodations for 1,100 persons; the smallest is the Anna, at New Orleans, of 1,575 tons. The second largest is the

Dora, of 7,037 tons. Most of the others are between 3,500 and 5,000 tons register, and are freighters.